

RADDAG News

**Hate Crime
Awareness Week
Special Edition**



Welcome to a special edition of our magazine where we will focus on Hate Crime, we'd like to say thank you to Rochdale Council who have sponsored this edition of the magazine.

RADDAG news aims to provide up to date information and articles of interest, produced by disabled people for disabled people, their family, friends and allies.

On the following pages you will find information about Hate Crime, what it is, how to report it, along with information from other organisations which we hope you will find interesting.

In this edition

- Hate Crime Awareness Week
- What is hate crime?
- How to report hate crime
- What is mate crime?
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- Volunteering opportunities



Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week

Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness Week takes place from 7th - 13th February 2022.

Hate Crime Awareness Week is an annual week of action across Greater Manchester which aims to raise awareness of what hate crime is, challenge perceptions, encourage reporting of hate crime, highlight support services available and promote tolerance and respect within the community.

If someone is being bullied, harassed or abused because of their race; religion; disability; sexuality; gender identity; or identification with an alternative subculture this may be a hate crime.

No one should face hate, violence or abuse because of who they are, who they love, where they're from, what they look like or what they believe.

Hate crime has no place in Greater Manchester. Don't stand by if you see someone being abused because of who they are. Take a stand, support them, challenge the abuse if it is safe to do so and report it.

When you report hate crimes, you are making a bigger difference than you may think. It not only helps you get support but it also helps make your local area safer. Most hate crimes aren't reported and your reports help the Police and Local Authority to understand how hate crime affects the community and then tackle the problem.

If you've been a victim of hate, help and support is available even if you don't want to report the crime to the police. Whatever you've been through, you are not alone.

Visit www.letsendhatecrime.com for more information.



TOO GREAT FOR HATE
GREATER MANCHESTER STANDS TOGETHER

Greater Manchester stands together against hate crime. LetsEndHateCrime.com

What is Hate Crime?

Hate crimes are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's:

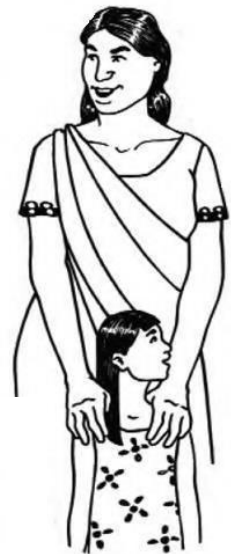
- disability
- race or ethnicity
- religion or belief
- sexual orientation
- transgender identity
- alternative sub-culture

This can be committed against a person or property.

A victim does not have to be a member of the group at which the hostility is targeted. In fact, anyone could be a victim of a hate crime.

By reporting them when they happen to you, you may be able to stop these incidents from happening to someone else. You will also help the police understand the extent of hate crime in your local area so they can better respond to it.

Hate Incidents can feel like crimes to those who suffer them and often escalate to crimes or tension in a community. For this reason the police are concerned about incidents and you can also report non-crime hate incidents. The police can only prosecute when the law is broken but can work with partners to try and prevent any escalation in seriousness.



The term 'hate crime' can be used to describe a range of criminal behaviour carried out by one or more perpetrators, such as verbal abuse, intimidation, threats, harassment, assault and bullying, as well as damage to property.

It can also include 'mate crime', where the perpetrator can be a friend, carer or acquaintance, and befriends you to exploit this 'friendship' for financial gain or some other criminal purpose.

A hate crime is when a crime is committed against you because of who you are.

Hate Crime can be:-



Attacks or violence



Damage to your house, car or other property



Arson/fire



Name Calling



Graffiti or writing

Mate Crime

Disability Hate Crime is: 'Any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon a person's disability'.

If you think people are picking on you because of your disability then it is a Hate Crime.

Hate Crime is serious and needs reporting to the police when it happens.

Mate Crime happens when someone pretends to be your friend and then uses you instead of being a good friend.

You might have met them recently or you might have known them for a long time. A 'mate' may be a friend, family member, supporter, paid staff or another disabled person.

Mate Crime is done by someone you know.

How do you know when a friend is really a friend?

Most friends really are friends... but sometimes people might pretend to be your friend. People who commit Mate Crimes might be nice to your face. These people are not always rude, violent, aggressive or steal your things. They pretend to be nice to you.

Mate Crime does not start with bullying but it can become bullying.

It starts with people saying they are your friend.

Mate Crimes often happen in private and are not seen by other people.

Mate crimes are Disability Hate Crimes and should be reported to the Police.

Any of these can be a Disability Hate Crime:-

- Kids throwing stones at my window.
- Someone borrowing my mobile phone and using up all the credit.
- A group of people beating me up outside the local shops and stealing my shopping.
- My mate coming round every time it's my benefit day so we can go to the pub and spend my money.
- Family members taking my money from me without asking.
- My friend comes round every Thursday and we go out in his car for the afternoon. He only charges me 20 quid for petrol each time.
- My neighbour calling me names when she sees me.
- People sending abusive text messages to my mobile phone.
- My mates always come to my flat for a party on a Friday night – I don't mind getting the food and drink in for them.
- My boyfriend saying I should have sex with other men for money.

How to Spot Mate Crime

These are the signs you need to look out for. If you notice any of these things it could be a sign that the person is a victim of Mate Crime.

- Changes in routine, behaviour, appearance, finances or household (e.g. new people visiting or staying over, lots of new 'friends', lots more noise or rubbish than there normally is).
- Unexplained injuries.
- Being involved in sexual acts which they have not agreed to.
- Losing weight.
- Not taking care of themselves and looking dirty or scruffy.
- Bills not being paid.
- A 'friend' who does not respect, bullies or undermines the person.
- Suddenly short of money, losing possessions or changing their will.
- The person 'doing what they are told to' by a 'friend'.
- Showing signs of mental ill health.
- Not being with usual networks of friends/family or missing weekly activities.

- Goods or packages arriving at a person's house (and then being collected by someone else soon after).
- The house is a mess after lots of parties.

Don't stand for it, report it!

If you think this is happening to someone you know tell someone – but make sure the 'right' people find out. Tell the Police, independent Hate Crime reporting centres or your Local Adult Safeguarding Team. Use the words Disability Hate Crime when you report it and check back later to make sure that it gets followed-up.

This information about mate crime has been produced by ARC (the Association for Real Change), a national charity committed to championing the development of high quality person centred services for everyone with a learning disability within the UK. For more information about ARC their website is www.arcuk.org.uk



Hate Crime Online

True Vision report that the internet has changed the way we communicate. It has many positive values but has also allowed hateful content to spread to a broader audience, without editorial control and often behind a veil of anonymity.

While you may come across a lot of material on the internet that offends you, only a small proportion of it is actually illegal. Hate material online is recorded by police as a 'hate crime' when a crime defined in law is committed with hate motivation. When online material is hate motivated but does not meet the threshold for a criminal offence it may be recorded as a 'Non-crime hate incident'. All recording is vital to monitor community cohesion.

UK laws are written to make sure that people can speak and write, even offensive material, without being prosecuted for their views. Parliament has tried to define laws in a way that balances our freedom of expression with the right to be protected from hate crime.

Agencies like the police have duties to promote good relationships between different parts of our communities, but they do not have powers to control offensive thoughts or words unless they are shared illegally.

Hate material can damage community cohesion and create fear, so the police want to work alongside communities and the Internet industry to reduce the harm caused by hate on the Internet.

“It made me feel disgusted and dehumanised. Why would you treat another human being that way?”

#WeStandTogether

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MANCHESTER**
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HATE**
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How to report Hate Crime

Hate crime comes in lots of forms, but no matter what it is you've experienced, you should report it. You can report it to the police, online, or at an independent hate crime reporting centre.

In an emergency: dial 999

An emergency is when a crime is being committed or has just been witnessed, there is a risk of injury, or a risk of serious damage to property.

In a non-emergency: dial 101

Use this number to report a non-emergency incident or make a general inquiry.

Want to report it, but don't want to talk to police?

You can also report hate crime using an independent reporting centre. These are independent, non-police centres that allow you to report incidents in complete confidence. If you'd rather not talk to anyone you can use a 'self-reporting' pack.

www.report-it.org.uk

'True Vision is a website containing lots of information about hate crime. You can report online and even remain anonymous if you want.

Report anonymously

Contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Crimestoppers is a charity which is entirely independent of police and never share details with police of people who have got in touch.

Police can only prosecute when the law has been broken. But even if what has happened isn't a crime, it is still well worth making a report.

These reports help police and other organisations build up a picture of community relations so they can better tackle the issues and prevent any escalation of hate crime incidents into violence or serious tensions within communities.



Youthwatch



Rochdale

Monthly Meeting

Don't forget to join us via Zoom on:
Tuesday 8th March 2022

6:30pm



Guest Speaker:
Carlo Schroder
Crime Community Coordinator



Email for link:

info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk

Healthwatch Rochdale we will be holding their next Youthwatch meeting on

Tuesday 8th March 2022, 6:30pm – 7:30pm via Zoom.

The guest speaker for this meeting is Carlo Schroder from Rochdale Borough Council discussing hate crime - 'No Place for Hate'.

If you are aged 13- 18 years old and live, work or study in the Rochdale Borough then Healthwatch Rochdale would love for you to join them.

Email info@healthwatchrochdale.org.uk for more details and the Zoom meeting link.

Rochdale and District Disability Action Group (RADDAG)

About Us

Rochdale and District Disability Action Group (RADDAG) has been established for over 30 years and registered as a charity and company limited by guarantee in 2006. RADDAG is a Disabled People's Organisation and aims to bring together and amplify our voices as disabled people from within the Borough of Rochdale. RADDAG hosts the Rochdale Borough Disability Forum which is an opportunity to connect, share information, highlight issues and work together to break down barriers experienced by disabled people.

Mission Statement

RADDAG will promote the Social Model of Disability and work towards securing Full and Equal Human and Civil Rights for all Disabled People, through the removal of barriers.

RADDAG aims:-

- To be the representative voice of disabled people in the Borough of Rochdale
- To secure the best possible services for all people in the Borough

- To advise service providers on Equality Issues
- To be involved in and influence the consultation process
- To provide a forum where organisations working towards greater equality in the Borough can meet to share ideas and expertise
- To deliver Equality and Diversity training
- To work towards a fully accessible and inclusive Borough of Rochdale

RADDAG will:-

- **Campaign** for greater equality
- **Provide** accurate up to date information
- **Encourage** disabled people to strive for equal access to services
- **Challenge** discriminatory stereotypical assumptions about people.
- **Inform** communities and organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors of their responsibility to be inclusive and accessible.
- **Scrutinise** local policies, decisions and practices
- **Empower** people to exercise **choice** and **control** to enable them to live **independent** lives

Volunteering Opportunities

Are you looking for a new challenge?

If so we have some exciting volunteer opportunities within RADDAG which could be perfect for you. Volunteering is a great way to increase your skills and confidence, while meeting new people and contributing to the success of our organisation.

We have an existing team of dedicated volunteers who will provide peer support for new volunteers and you will also have access to relevant training and support to help you in your volunteer role.

We are looking for volunteers to:-

Join our communications team, you will help to produce our newsletter filled with useful information and interesting articles for our members and partners. You will also have the opportunity of being involved in keeping our website and social media up to date.

Join our mystery customer and access audit Team. This is a new project for RADDAG, where people with a cross section of impairments and from different local communities will be gathering information about how a service responds to and meets the needs of different customers.

Become a Social Host. Are you a good organiser? Do you enjoy meeting new people? If so then this volunteer opportunity is perfect for you. We are looking to launch a number of informal get-togethers, perhaps online or in your local accessible café, pub or community building, where our members can meet up and have a chat over a brew (Covid-19 restrictions permitting).

Join our training team, who plan and deliver various training courses to organisations and individuals

Even if you don't have much time to spare there are still lots of ways that you can get involved you can:-

'Like' the RADDAG Facebook page and 'Follow' us on Twitter where we post and share up to date information on interesting topics and you can get involved in the discussions

Join the RADDAG membership list to be kept up to date with activities and receive information about upcoming focus groups

Find RADDAG on Facebook - facebook.com/RADDAG1

Follow RADDAG on Twitter - twitter.com/R_A_D_D_A_G

We would like to thank Rochdale Borough Council for supporting and funding this Hate Crime edition of our magazine.



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To receive this magazine in an alternative format or for additional copies please contact us at info@raddag.org